

language. The International Application claims priority of British Patent Application 9905427.2, filed March 9, 1999.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 3 insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 6 insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (amended) A hull (1) for a water craft, wherein the center of gravity (Cg) of the hull is substantially vertically aligned with the center of hydrodynamic lift (Cp) of a lifting surface of the hull, both at lift-off speed and at design speed; characterised in that the aspect ratio ($S2/A$) of the wetted hull (1) at design speed is in the range of 2.5 to 5.0.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (amended) A hull according to claim 1, wherein the center of gravity (Cg) and center of hydrodynamic lift (Cp) are substantially vertically aligned at all hull speeds between lift-off and design speed and above.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (amended) A hull according to claim 2, wherein the center of gravity (Cg) and center of hydrodynamic lift are also substantially vertically aligned at hull

speeds below liftoff.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (amended) A hull according to claim 1, wherein the aspect ratio (S2/A) of the hull (1) at lift-off speed is in the range of 1.5 to 2.5.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (amended) A hull according to claim 1, wherein a leading edge (28) of the wetted area of the hull (1) at design speed is generally transverse to the direction of forward movement of the hull along at least a portion (12) of its length, whereby a spray sheet (26) which may be created by the hull, in use thereof, is projected generally forwards such that the craft rides over the spray sheet.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (amended) A hull according to claim 1, wherein the hull (1) is of generally delta-shape in plan view, comprising a central portion (1a) and two side wing portions (1b, 1c).

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (amended) A hull according to claim 9, wherein the hull is provided with two propellers (22, 22a) attached to the transom (3) of the central portion of the hull.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (amended) A hull according to claim 8, further including an abruptly downswept trailing edge portion.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (amended) A hull according to claim 14, wherein said flap means extends over the full width of the transom of the central portion of the hull and also

extends across the full length of inner (6b, 6c) and trailing (7b, 7c) edges of each side wing portion (1b, 1c) defining the open area (5) at the rear of the hull (1).

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (amended) A hull according to claim 13, wherein the chord of the flap means is variable.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (amended) A hull according to claim 16, wherein the chord of the flap means at the transom (3) of the central portion (1a) of the hull is independently variable of the chord of the flap means at the inner and trailing edges of the wing portions.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (amended) A hull according to claim 7, wherein the central portion (1a) of the hull includes a nose portion (1d) which comprises a forward surface extending rearwardly and downwardly from a nose of the hull towards a trailing end portion of the central portion of the hull, and lightly cambered in longitudinal section thereof such that the angle (of said forward surface relative to the water surface, in uses of the hull, is progressively reduced along the length of said nose portion towards said trailing end portion of the hull.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (amended) A hull according to claim 7, wherein each side wing portion (1b, 1c) is lightly cambered in transverse cross-section thereof such that the angle of an underside (50b,50c) of each side wing portion relative to the water surface is progressively reduced from a tip (10b,10c) of the wing portion, along the transverse width of the wing portion, towards the central portion (1a) of the hull (1).

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (amended) A hull according to claim 7, wherein each side wing portion (1b,1c) has an underside portion which is inclined to an underside (36) of the central portion (1a) of the hull at an angle (A) which is in the range of 2 to 10 degrees.

Please amend claim 22 as follows:

22. (amended) A hull according to claim 1, further including a keel (50) extending downwardly from an underside of the hull and which is formed and arranged so that the center of lateral resistance of the keel (50) is substantially vertically aligned with the center of gravity (Cg) of the hull.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

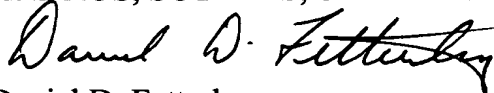
24. (amended) A water craft incorporating a hull (1) according to claim 1.

Please amend claim 26 as follows:

26. (amended) A water craft according to claim 25, wherein the hull (1) is also formed and arranged such that if the craft pitches such that the bow (32) of the craft lowers, the hydrodynamic center of lift (Cp) of said lifting surface of the hull moves sharply forwards.

Respectfully submitted,

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